



Immigrants in Minnesota

Minnesota has a sizable immigrant community, much of which emigrated from Mexico and Somalia. Foreign-born individuals account for nearly one in ten Minnesotans, while 7 percent of residents are native-born Americans who have at least one immigrant parent. Across sectors, immigrants support the state's economy. For example, one in five Minnesota healthcare support employees is an immigrant, as are nearly one in five residents working in the computer and math sciences. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Minnesota's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

Nearly 10 percent of Minnesota residents are immigrants, while 7 percent of residents are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent.

- In 2018, 484,192 immigrants (foreign-born individuals) comprised 9 percent of the population.¹
- Minnesota was home to 226,546 women, 210,832 men, and 46,814 children who were immigrants.²
- The top countries of origin for immigrants were Mexico (12 percent of immigrants), Somalia (8 percent), India (6 percent), Laos (5 percent), and Ethiopia (5 percent).³
- In 2018, 417,832 people in Minnesota (7 percent of the state's population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.⁴

More than half of all immigrants in Minnesota are naturalized U.S. citizens.

- 255,008 immigrants (53 percent) had naturalized as of 2018,⁵ and 81,309 immigrants were eligible to become [naturalized U.S. citizens](#) in 2017.⁶
- Four in five (81 percent) immigrants reported speaking English "well" or "very well."⁷

Immigrants in Minnesota are concentrated at either end of the educational spectrum.

- More than a third (34 percent) of adult immigrants had a college degree or more education in 2018, while nearly a quarter (24 percent) had less than a high school diploma.⁸

Education Level	Share (%) of All Immigrants	Share (%) of All Natives
College degree or more	34	37
Some college	22	34
High school diploma only	20	25
Less than a high school diploma	24	5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

More than 64,000 U.S. citizens in Minnesota live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

- 95,000 [undocumented immigrants](#) comprised 20 percent of the immigrant population and 2 percent of the total state population in 2016.⁹
- 138,664 people in Minnesota, including 64,136 U.S. citizens, lived with at least one [undocumented family member](#) between 2010 and 2014.¹⁰
- During the same period, about 4 percent of children in the state were U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (48,292 children in total).¹¹

Minnesota is home to over 5,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

- 5,180 [active DACA recipients](#) lived in Minnesota as of March 2020, while DACA has been granted to 6,500 people in total since 2012.¹²
- As of 2019, 59 percent of [DACA-eligible immigrants](#) in Minnesota had applied for DACA.¹³
- An additional 2,000 residents of the state would satisfy all but the educational requirements for DACA, and fewer than a thousand would become eligible as they grew older.¹⁴

More than one in ten workers in Minnesota is an immigrant, together making up a vital part of the state’s labor force in a range of industries.

- 326,010 immigrant workers comprised 11 percent of the labor force in 2018.¹⁵

- Immigrant workers were most numerous in the following industries:

Industry	Number of Immigrant Workers
Health Care and Social Assistance	65,425
Manufacturing	63,707
Retail Trade	35,742
Educational Services	29,921
Accommodation and Food Services	29,737

Source: Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

- The largest shares of immigrant workers were in the following industries:¹⁶

Industry	Immigrant Share (%) (of all industry workers)
Administrative & Support; Waste Management; and Remediation Services	16
Manufacturing	14
Transportation and Warehousing	14
Accommodation and Food Services	14
Health Care and Social Assistance	11

Source: Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

Immigrants are an integral part of the Minnesota workforce in a range of occupations.

- In 2018, immigrant workers were most numerous in the following occupation groups:¹⁷

Occupation Category	Number of Immigrant Workers
Production	45,478
Office and Administrative Support	33,048
Transportation and Material Moving	30,108
Sales and Related	28,167
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	25,314

Source: Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

- The largest shares of immigrant workers were in the following occupation groups:¹⁸

Occupation Category	Immigrant Share (%) (of all workers in occupation)
Healthcare Support	20
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	19
Production	19
Computer and Mathematical	18
Architecture and Engineering	14

Source: Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.

- Undocumented immigrants comprised 2 percent of Minnesota's workforce in 2016.¹⁹

Immigrants in Minnesota have contributed billions of dollars in taxes.

- [Immigrant-led households in the state paid](#) \$2.9 billion in federal taxes and \$1.5 billion in state and local taxes in 2018.²⁰
- Undocumented immigrants in Minnesota paid an estimated \$191.2 million in federal taxes and \$108.8 million in [state and local taxes](#) in 2018.²¹
- Minnesota [DACA recipients](#) and DACA-eligible individuals paid an estimated \$14.9 million in state and local taxes in 2018.²²

As consumers, immigrants add billions of dollars to Minnesota's economy.

- Minnesota residents in immigrant-led households had \$11.2 billion in [spending power](#) (after-tax income) in 2018.²³

Immigrant entrepreneurs in Minnesota generate hundreds of millions of dollars in business revenue.

- 20,219 immigrant business owners accounted for 7 percent of all self-employed Minnesota residents in 2018 and generated \$576.2 million in business income.²⁴
- In the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington metropolitan area in 2018, 11 percent of business owners were immigrants.²⁵

Endnotes

1. “Foreign born” does not include people born in Puerto Rico or U.S. island areas or U.S. citizens born abroad of American parent(s). U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. The American Immigration Council elected to use data from the 2018 ACS 1-Year estimates wherever possible to provide the most current information available. Since these estimates are based on a smaller sample size than the ACS 5-year, however, they are more sensitive to fluctuations and may result in greater margins of error (compared to 5-year estimates).
2. Children are defined as people age 17 or younger. Men and women do not include children. Ibid.
3. Analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2018 American Community Survey 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.
4. Analysis of data from the 2018 Current Population Survey by the American Immigration Council, using IPUMS CPS. Sarah Flood, Miriam King, Renae Rodgers, Steven Ruggles and J. Robert Warren, *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey: Version 7.0* [dataset] (Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2020), <https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V7.0>.
5. 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates.
6. Augmented IPUMS-ACS data, as published in “State-Level Unauthorized Population and Eligible-to-Naturalize Estimates,” Center for Migration Studies data tool, accessed April 2020, data.cmsny.org/state.html.
7. Figure includes immigrants who speak only English. Data based on survey respondents age 5 and over. Analysis of 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates by the American Immigration Council.
8. Data based on survey respondents age 25 and older. Ibid.
9. Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates, 2016,” February 5, 2019, www.pewhispanic.org/interactives/unauthorized-immigrants/.
10. Silva Mathema, “State-by-State Estimates of the Family Members of Unauthorized Immigrants,” University of Southern California’s Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration and the Center for American Progress, March 2017, www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/03/16/427868/state-state-estimates-family-members-unauthorized-immigrants/.
11. American Immigration Council analysis of data from the 2010-2014 ACS 5-Year, using Silva Mathema’s “State-by-State Estimates of the Family Members of Unauthorized Immigrants” and IPUMS-USA. Steven Ruggles, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, and Matthew Sobek, *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 7.0* [dataset] (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, 2017).
12. The number of DACA recipients reflects USCIS’ estimate of those with active DACA grants as of March 31, 2020. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), “Approximate Active DACA Recipients: As of March 31, 2020” [dataset], July 22, 2020, <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/Approximate%20Active%20DACA%20Receipts%20-%20March%2031%202020.pdf>. DACA grants reflect USCIS Form I-821D initial requests approved from Aug. 15, 2012-Mar. 31, 2020, as of April 2020. USCIS, “Number of Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Status, by Fiscal Year, Quarter, and Case Status: Aug. 15, 2012-Mar. 31, 2020,” July 22, 2020, https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/DACA_performance_data_fy2020_qtr2.pdf.
13. Estimates of the DACA-eligible population as of 2019 include unauthorized immigrant youth who had been in the United States since 2007, were under the age of 16 at the time of arrival, were under the age of 31 as of 2012, and who met DACA eligibility requirements as of 2016. Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2012-16 American Community Survey (ACS) pooled, and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), with legal status assignments by James Bachmeier and Colin Hammar of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute, as cited in “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Data Tools,” accessed April 2020, www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles.
14. Ibid.
15. Analysis of 2018 ACS 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council. Categories are based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/index.html.
16. Ibid.
17. Analysis of 2018 ACS 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council. Categories are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system, www.bls.gov/soc/major_groups.htm.
18. Ibid.
19. Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigration population estimates, 2016,” 2019.
20. New American Economy analysis of 2018 ACS microdata using IPUMS. New American Economy, “Map the Impact,” section Taxes and Spending Power, January 31, 2020, <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/>.
21. Ibid. at sec. Undocumented Immigrants.
22. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, *State & Local Tax Contributions of Young Undocumented Immigrants* (Washington, DC: April 2018), Appendix 1, <https://itep.org/state-local-tax-contributions-of-young-undocumented-immigrants>.
23. New American Economy, “Map the Impact,” section Taxes and Spending Power.
24. “Business owners” include people who are self-employed, at least 18 years old, and work at least 15 hours per week at their businesses. Analysis of 2018 ACS 1-year PUMS data by the American Immigration Council.
25. American Immigration Council analysis of 2018 CPS data. Flood, King, Rodgers, Ruggles, and Warren, *IPUMS CPS* dataset.